

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-18, and 20 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1 and 7 are amended; Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and new Claim 20 is added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the present specification, for example, in Fig. 3A and original Claim 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 12, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Nishimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,058,688, hereinafter “Nishimura”); Claims 1, 2, 7, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Görike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,278,852, hereinafter “Görike”); Claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Görike in view of Sheffer (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0134553); Claims 5, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nishimura in view of Sheffer; and Claims 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nishimura.

First, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Robinson for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicant’s representative on July 14, 2010, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Arguments similar to the ones developed hereinafter were presented and Examiner Robinson indicated that in light of the arguments, he would reconsider the outstanding grounds for rejection upon formal submission of a response. The present response constitutes Applicant’s statement of substance of the personal interview.

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections and traverses these rejections, as discussed below.

Amended Claim 1 includes the features of Claim 2 and recites, in part, “said baffle portion is approximately cone-shaped having a circular cross-section.” It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1.

As discussed during the interview and agreed to by Examiner Robinson, Görike does not disclose a cone-shaped baffle portion, as disclosed, for example, in Applicant’s Fig. 3A. Instead, as noted by Examiner Robinson, Fig. 15 of Görike describes a coupling space 64 and a protective grid 65 (asserted on page 4 of the Office Action as corresponding to the claimed baffle portion) having a ***pointed*** shape with straight edges. Further, the Office Action does not assert that Nishimura discloses the features of Claim 2 (now recited in Claim 1). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1, and all claims dependent thereon, be withdrawn.

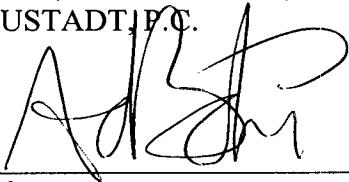
New Claim 20 is added by the present amendment. Support for new Claim 20 can be found in the original specification, for example, in Fig. 3A. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. New Claim 20 depends on Claim 1, and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed with respect to Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that new Claim 20 be allowed.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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